

Easement

K-331

Buck-Bacchus Store
High Street, Chestertown
c. 1735

On the north corner of High and Queen Streets there stands one of the earliest brick houses remaining in Chestertown (c. 1735). The building, currently known as the Buck-Bacchus Store, was restored in 1977. During the process, information about its former appearance and layout was discovered, recorded and the building restored accordingly. The single most important feature of the building discovered was its original floor plan. This consisted of two rooms on the first floor, each having its own exterior entrance, with only one of these rooms having a fireplace. Of the two, the unheated room faced High Street and appears to have been intended for use as a store or commercial space.

John Buck who purchased the northwest half of lot No. 34 in 1735 from Jonathan Page, was a merchant from Bideford, Devonshire, England. Buck was a third generation merchant whose family had helped to put Bideford on the map in the 17th Century by exporting local pottery and woolen cloth to the colonies and bringing back to England tobacco and timber for reexport. He is known to have had plantations in Maryland, Virginia and a sawmill in Maine.

Soon after he acquired the lot, Buck set about building two tenements; one on the corner, now numbered 103 Queen Street, and the other a little way down Queen Street. It is possible that he employed his neighbor, James Moore, a bricklayer, who had just built a house on the opposite corner of Queen and High Streets to work on these tenements as

well.

The house Buck built on the corner was originally two and a half stories tall with a hip roof on the three bay High Street facade and a gable at the back. This created an asymmetrical roof on the three bay Queen Street facade. Stone was used in the basement foundation with brick in an English bond pattern above the basement windows. The molded water table was designed to jog up and over the basement windows on Queen Street but remain straight on the High Street facade, where the original basement bulkhead entrance was located to the right of the High Street door. Glazed headed Flemish bond was used above the water table on the two principal facades. A two-brick belt course was designed to jog down on the Queen Street facade, similar to that at Scotch Folly in the upper county and at Cloverfields in Queen Anne's County. Windows on both floors were of the same size with 9/9 sash – the lower windows were fitted with shutters.

How the building was used in the 18th Century is only hinted at in the available documents. Ownership, however, by merchants, a doctor and an innkeeper certainly support its worth as a commercial building.

When John Buck's sons and heirs decided to sell the property, they asked Fredericktown attorney Joseph Earle to take care of the details. In 1768 Earle advertised the property for sale in the Maryland Gazette: "Frederick-Town, Caecil County, Oct 24, 1768

To be Sold, by virtue of a Power of Attorney from George and William Buck, Efqrs., Merchants of Biddeford, a Dwelling-Houfe in Chefter-Town, compeatly finifhed, with Eight Rooms, Six of which are richly papered. There is an excellent Kitchen adjoining, in which are Two good

Fire-Places, and every Thing Compleat. On the Lot is a commodious Stable, with Nine Stalls, Two of which are clofe; a large Yard, with a good Well and new Pump in it, and every other Conveniency fit for a Gentleman's Family in private Life, or public Buinefs. On the fame Lot is a Brick Houfe, which, with a little Expense, might be converted into a good Store-Room and Compting-Houfe. For Terms of Sale, Apply to

¹⁷⁸ (tf) ¹⁷ JOSEPH EARLE"1

In the deed to the next owner it is stated that the building was at one time in the possession of Dr. John Scott. Possibly he used one of the rooms as his office.

"All and Singular their two Brick messuages or tenements and Lott with the appurtenances thereunto belonging situate lying and being in Chester Town afs late in the possession of Doctor John Scott and now in the possession of the said Emory Sudler . . . purchased by John Buck of Jonathan Page . . ."2

In 1785, Thomas Smyth purchased the lot and Sudler's part of the lot No. 25 adjoining. Smyth, like his brother-in-law Sudler, was a merchant. They were, in fact, in business together during the period in which Sudler owned the buildings. Within a month of buying the property from Sudler, Smyth placed another advertisement in the Maryland Gazette which lists many of the features that did not survive into the 20th Century.

"To be sold by subscriber on 30 Sept.

Two house + lots in C'tn situated in the most public part of town viz one a corner brick house, two stories high, with three rooms in lower story

and four in upper, a good dry cellar under the whole house, bounded by Main or High St. on one side, and Queen's St. on the other, with a stone house adjoining which forms the kitchen and a convenient family dining room, composing all together a building on High St of 65 feet long and running on Queen's St. with the ground belonging thereto. 92 feet and back 90 feet. There are also a good framed stable and carriage house, and stone smokehouse on the said lot, all in good repair. The other lot is 92 feet in front of Queen's St, running back 180 feet, has on the said street a brick house, two stories high, 2 rooms in the lower and three in the upper, with a good framed kitchen, under which is a good dry cellar there are also on the premises a carriage-house and stable. These houses + lots . . . 1/6 purchas 1 Jan.

Thomas Smyth
(Jas Ringgold)"³

During the restoration, when plaster was removed from the southeast wall of the present bathroom, an outline of a low pitched "A" roof was discovered, indicating the presence of an earlier wing. At the time, it was a mystery, but the advertisement clearly gives form and size to a fact which had been covered since the 1820's.

Thomas Smyth was successful in disposing of his properties but only in several parcels over a two year period. When the deed was finally recorded in 1787 for the corner house and lot to one "Harriett Buchanan, gentlewoman", the house was then occupied by John Rolph, an innkeeper.⁴ It is not stated whether Buchanan lived in the building or rented it out, but when she sold it twenty years later, she was residing in New Castle County,

Delaware.⁵

In 1818 Thomas and Christianna Walker became owners. Thomas Walker, also a merchant, advertised in the local papers as well. It was during the Walker's long ownership (1818-1854) that the store was altered twice. First, the stone kitchen wing was demolished and replaced by a narrow entry/stair hall, the full depth of the building. Then the old chimney was also demolished and a new one installed in the northeast wall. Without the stone kitchen, it was necessary to build a new one. This was done along the Queen Street side. With a formal entrance on High Street, the original Queen Street entrance was superfluous, so it was carefully bricked up and converted into a window. Also during this period, the storeroom was fitted with shelves. This new addition was constructed in brick using the common bond pattern in contrast to the Flemish bond of the original structure.

An interesting aside is the paint treatment which was employed on the exterior of the brick building after the stone kitchen had been demolished and before the plaster was applied inside the new stair hall. The entire building was painted with thick brick-red paint and then each of the mortar joints was painstakingly painted white with an equally thick paint, forming a contrast even more garish than the original glazed brickwork. Another feature uncovered from the 1820's was a blue and gray damask type wallpaper applied over the original beaded board partitions in the principal bed chamber. In the process of being removed, the manufacturer's name appeared on one of the 18" x 22" blocked sheets:

"Manufactured by

H. P. Borrekens

151 Chestnut St., Philad^a

Borrekens is known to have been in the paper hanging business at this

address in 1823-24, which helps to narrow the date range of remodeling to within a short time.⁶

The other alteration which may have occurred during the Walker ownership is hinted at in Smyth's will.

"I give and devise unto Thomas McLoughlin, son of George . . . in consideration of essential service done me by his father during my fire on Jany 8th 1844 . . ."⁷

Prior to the restoration, the roof of the Buck-Bacchus Store was a near flat hip roof, covered with raised seam tin. Traces of fire damage were visible in the attic flooring and joists and also in the board partition between the two front bedchambers. The fire appears to have originated where a stove pipe penetrated the roof. The flat roof was undoubtedly installed after the fire, as was much of the interior plasterwork over the board partitions.

By the time the house was sold in 1854 to William Bacchus, the lot had been reduced to a fraction of its 1735 bounds. Bacchus and his wife and family not only carried on the store, but made the house their residence as well. After William's death in 1874, the building was transferred to his daughter Harriett. The store was maintained, although the floor was dropped to near street level and the windows and doors were lengthened. A canvas awning was installed on High Street. This change eliminated interior access between the store and residential parts. According to the memories of two Chestertown residents, the residence was rented to Dr. and Mrs. Charles Whaland while Harriett Bacchus' brother continued to operate the store in the remainder of the building.

After 1922, when Eva Topping became the owner, the store was

incorporated into the residence. The High Street openings that had been lengthened during the Bacchus period were reconverted into windows. The back wing, which had previously incorporated a dining room and kitchen was removed, and the tiny lot on which it stood, sold. A porch was built along the back and the kitchen brought into the brick part of the house – a plan better suited to 20th century living.

Between 1939-1971 the house was the home of the W. Burgess Schreiber family. Finally, in 1975 the building was purchased by Preservation, Inc., a Chestertown preservation group who, with the financial assistance of many, restored it as a store/residence. Today it is a private residence with the store room serving as a small museum open to the public at various times throughout the year.

1. Maryland Gazette, Dec. 1, 1768.
2. Land Records, Lib. DD 3, fol. 513.
3. Maryland Gazette, Aug. 26, 1785.
4. Land Records, Lib. EF 7, fol. 142.
5. Land Records, Lib WS 1, fol. 432.
6. Research supplied by Dr. Roger W. Moss, Dir. Athenaeum, Phila, PA.
Samples of this wallpaper were donated to the Cooper-Hewitt Museum,
NY, NY.
7. Wills, Lib. IF 1, fol.4.

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~~131~~ Buck-Bachhus Store
Chestertown
private

mid 18th century

The architectural and historical significance of the Buck-Bachhus Store are about to be amplified manyfold by its restoration: a local preservation corporation with matching funds from the Maryland Historical Trust has begun the task of peeling ~~in~~ off a century and a half of alteration to return this unique-to-the-area eighteenth century store to its original 3-bay square form. The low hip roof is to be raised, an added fourth bay removed, ~~from the facade, and the~~ and the facade returned to its original symmetrical arrangement. When completed, the building will closely resemble the Esau Watkins House on Water Street. ~~The building~~

The building was constructed sometime during the ownership of the Bucks (father John Buck had the John Buck House at 103 Queen Street built) though precisely when is not clear. Architectural and documentary evidence suggest the period 1735-~~1750~~ 1750. Whether it began as a store is not known, nor if not how soon it was converted; but it is known that ~~it~~ served that purpose between 1854 and 1922 under the ownership of William and ~~then later~~ later Harriet Bachhus.

Easement
MHTD 1503511104 K-331

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Buck-Bacchus Store

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

116 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE Preservation

— BOTH Inc.

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

— OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

— COMMERCIAL

— EDUCATIONAL

— ENTERTAINMENT

— GOVERNMENT

— INDUSTRIAL

— MILITARY

— MUSEUM

— PARK

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— RELIGIOUS

— SCIENTIFIC

— TRANSPORTATION

— OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Preservation, Inc.

Telephone #: —

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 420

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: EHP 65

Folio #: 185

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-331

CONDITION

— EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☒ FAIR

— DETERIORATED
 — RUINS
 — UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

— UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
 — MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building faces onto High Street from the east corner of the intersection of High and Queen Streets in Chestertown. It is set very close to its neighbors on both Queen and High Streets on a part of Town Lot 34.

It is a radically altered building, which, it appears, was originally a modest mid-eighteenth century brick Georgian dwelling or store. It was originally 3 bays square, 2 or 2½ stories high, with a symmetrical facade and hipped roof. It is presently a 4 bay by 3 bay, 2-story flat-roofed building, with its entrance moved to the southeast (right) bay. It is presently owned by a private corporation who purchased it in order to restore and then re-sell it. They plan to remove the added fourth bay, rebuild the hip roof, and put a gabled dormer on the front.

The house stands on a fieldstone basement (as does the front section of 103 Queen built on the same lot at approximately the same time), has a 4-brick molded water table which jogs over the basement windows, and a 2-brick belt course above the first story. Both the water table and belt course are stepped on the northeast (left) elevation of the building. The brickwork of the original section is laid in Flemish Bond with glazed headers. (The belt course is not continued onto the added bay; its brickwork is laid in common bond.)

The basement windows have segmental arches as do those on the first story; the second story windows have wood lintels which are virtually covered by a deep white freize-like cornice which was presumably added when the hipped roof was lowered. All of the windows in the original portion of the building are double hung 2/2; those in the new bay are 1/1; all have louvered shutters.

The flat roof is covered with tar paper and gravel. There is an interior chimney toward the rear.

The new porch has a raised wooden stoop and wooden steps.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES mid-18th century

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this building is partly its being a part of a neighborhood of several homes of its period and style and partly in its being (in its original form) the only one of the group with the classic Georgian form: overall square proportions, hipped roof, and symmetrical facade. It is also one of very few eighteenth century "stores" in the area. It is hoped the planned restoration can be carried out.

The building was built some time during the ownership of the Bucks, between 1735 and 1771. Jonothon Page, mariner, sold the northwest half of Town Lot No. 34 for £25 to John Buck, in 1735. ~~There was some sort of "tenement or messuage" on the property but the price indicates no substantial dwelling was involved.~~ It is surmised that Buck built 103 Queen Street for himself sometime between 1735 and 1750 (when he died) and quite possibly he had 116 High built during that period too. Its having the same sort of foundation is suggestive. In 1750 he left unspecified real estate to his sons, William and George. The Buck brothers sold the entire property, including "two brick tenements or messuages," to Emory Sudler in 1771 and returned to England. The sale price was £700. Obviously, both 116 and 103 were involved in the sale; if John Buck did not build 116 High, then the Buck brothers had it built between 1750 and 1771.

We know that Dr. John Cook and John Rolph, an innkeeper lived in 116 High before 1771. It was Sudler's residence while he owned it, 1771 to 1785.

Sudler bought much of the adjoining Town Lot 25 on Queen Street the next year (1772), which in all likelihood had only the "rectory" or rear section of 109 Queen on it at this time. Sudler sold all he had bought of Lot 25 and all but a small piece of his half of 34 (26 feet fronting on High Street) to Thomas Smyth in 1785 for £2998 (post Revolution pounds but still a high price). The small piece went to Thomas Smyth, Jr. for £200. Smyth split the property up in 1787, selling the parts of Lot 34 and 25 with 103 Queen on them to Benjamin Chambers for £650 and the part of 34 with 116 High on it to Harriet Buchannon for £800.

It is not known whether the building was a store (or inn) before the mid-nineteenth century; but from 1854 to 1922, under the ownership of the Bacchus family, it was. Its layout suggests it may always have been. Research continues.

K-331

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .034 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the east corner formed by the intersection of High Street and Queen Street, said lot fronting on High Street 33.5 feet and running by and with the line of Queen Street 43.67 feet in depth to the line of the lands of Alwyn Culp.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Town of Chestertown

STREET & NUMBER

DATE

March, 1976

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Title Search on 116 High Street

Simon Wilmer to Jonothon Page Liber 4 Folio 343 (1733) L10
 ("all that messuage and lot of land...Number 34")

Jonothon Page to John Buck Folio 4 542 (1735) L25
 (northwest half of Lot 34. Tenement may be on southeast half as none is mentioned)

John Buck leaves house, land, and probably 103--possibly 116 as well--to sons,
 William and George. (1750)

George and William Buck to Emory Sudler DD 3 513 (1771) L700
 ("two brick tenements or messuages") Barroll house next door brought
 L550 the previous year.

Emory Sudler to Thomas Smyth EF 6 487 (1785) L2998
 (northeast half of Lot 34 and large part of Lot 25 bought from George
 Forrester in 1772)

Thomas Smyth to Harriet Buchannan EF 7 142 (1787) L800
 (part of Lot 34 with 116 High Street on it)

Harriet Buchannan to David Chambers and James McClean WS 1 434 (1817) \$1700
 (probably a store bynow, if not earlier)

David Chambers and James G. McClean to Thomas Walker WS 2 175 (1818)

Thomas Walker to Christianna Walker WS 2 314 (1818) ~~WS~~ \$2000

Henry Archer, Trustee for Walker estate, to William Bacchus JFG 2 448 (1854)

Harriet Bacchus to Eva P. Topping RRA 1 477 (1922) \$2750

Ethel P. Gibbs, Executor of Topping Estate, to W. Burgess Shreiber and Anna M.
 Schreiber RAS 22 244 (1939)

Anna M. Shreiber to Richard R. Cooper EHP 38 570 (1971)

Richard R. Cooper to David M. Williams EHP 52 73 (1973)

David M. Williams to Preservation, Inc. EHP 65 185 (1975)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Kent TOWN Chestertown VICINITY STREET NO. Queen & High Streets ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER Anna M. Schrieber PRESENT USE dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES 2		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY -K-37	
		2. NAME DATE OR PERIOD mid 18th Century STYLE Colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC The house on the east corner of High and Queen Streets is a very early structure. It is two stories and basement built of brick laid in flemish bond with glazed headers. It has a molded water table which jogs above the basement windows, like 108 High Street, and a belt course which jogs below the usual level on the west side, like Cloverfield in Queen Anne's County. There are segmental arches above the windows, which have one over one sash and louvered shutters. There is a one-bay addition on the east side which is now the main entrance. At the time of this addition, the roof was lowered and made a very low hip. The chimney is to the rear of the oldest section and the whole house sits on a stone foundation.			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior OK			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)			
3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		7. PHOTOGRAPH 1 B & W	
		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael O. Bourne Maryland Historical Trust P. O. Box 1704 Annapolis, Md. 21404 DATE OF RECORD Feb. 6, 1968	



K-331

N

CEMETERY

VITA FOODS

FOODS
EW)
FARM

COUNTY

RAILROAD

PENNSYLVANIA

LYNCHBURG

KENT

MILL

CROSS

TWILLEY
LANE
QUEEN

WATER
CANNON

HIGH

STREET

MAPLE

RIVERSIDE
TERRACE

U.S. 213

Chester

WASHINGTON

COLLEGE

COLLEGE

MT. VERNON

WASHINGTON
U.S. 213

TERRACE

PHILOSOPHERS

KENT

BYFORD
DRIVE

WALDO
DRIVE

DAVID
DRIVE

CARROLL
DRIVE

BYFORD

COURT

River

MORRIS

STREET

ELM STREET

GREENWOOD
STREET

PINE

VALLEY

CEDAR

SCHOOL

BROWN
VIEW
RD.

STREET

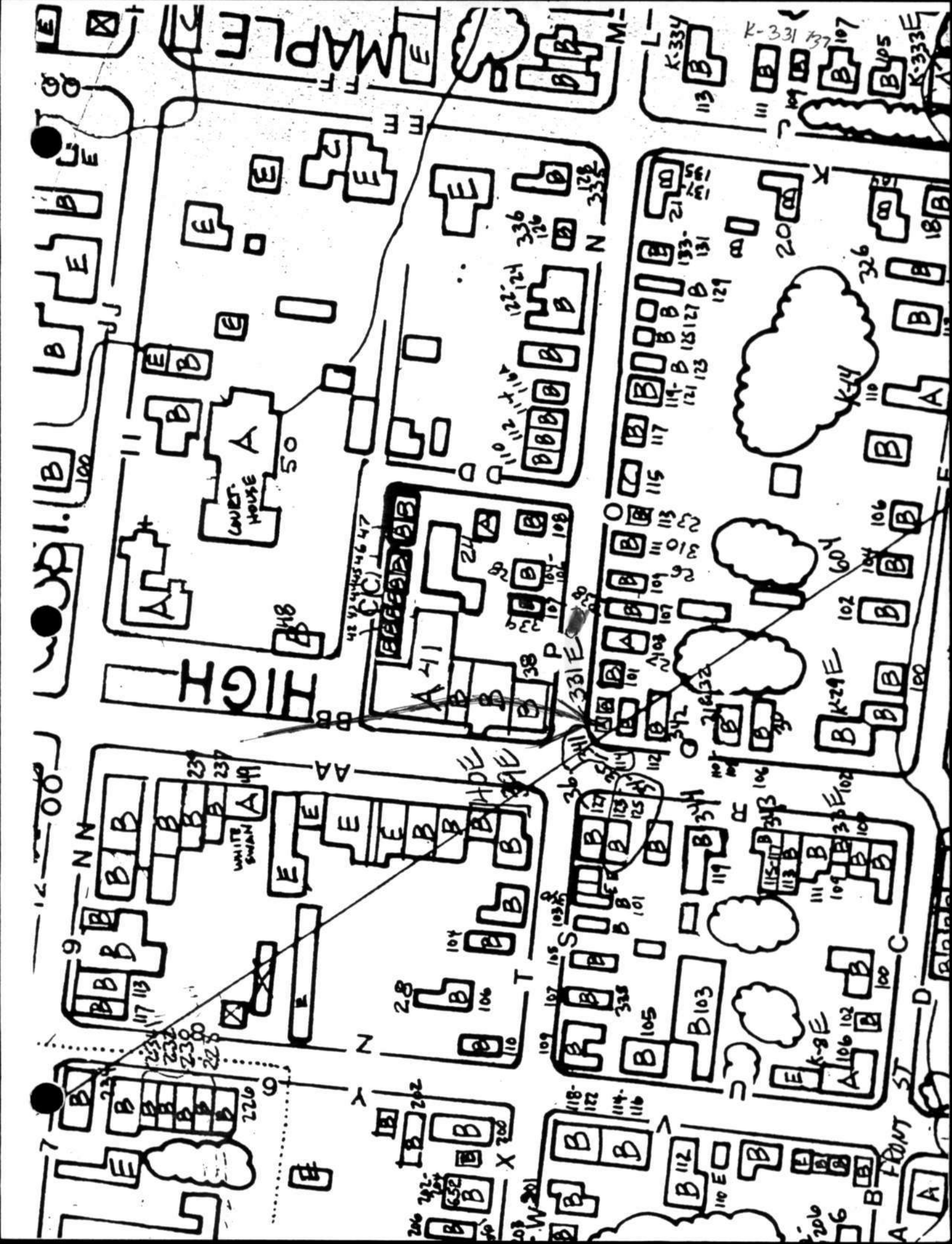
SCHOOL
STREET

SCHOOL
AVENUE

STREET

MORRIS

K-331



K-331
Buck-Bacchus Store (Schreiber Store)
116 High St.
Chestertown
Chestertown Quad.
Kent County





K 331

Buck-Backhio Store
116 Hg

Sow

1/77



K 331 Buck-Backins Store
116 High

1/77 S + W



Buck-Büchus Stae, 116 High Street, Chestertown
Queen Street facade

Please Credit to:
Maryland Historical Trust
21 State Circle
Shaw House
Annapolis, MD 21401

K-331-A

M. Bourne 4/76



Bueh-Bacchus Store, 116 High Street, Chestertown
Detail - water table + basement window

Please Credit to:
Maryland Historical Trust
21 State Circle
Shaw House
Annapolis, MD 21401

C III Y

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M. Bowne 4/76



Buck-Bacchus Store - 116 High St, Chestertown

Detail - belt course - Queen St.

Please Credit to:
Maryland Historical Trust
21 State Circle
Shaw House
Annapolis, MD 21401

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C. III Z

M. Bourne 4/76